

Ball Players Who Have Seen Service in Major Leagues for Ten or More Years Are Becoming Scarce These Days

LIFE OF AVERAGE BALL PLAYER IS ABOUT FIVE YEARS

Only the Stars Are Able to Remain in Major Leagues Much Longer.

MATTY, PLANK, WAGNER AND LAJOIE AMONG THEM

By SHORSTOP.

How short is the life of the average big leaguer? Players come and players go, and nobody knows where or when. In many small towns throughout the country there are men still living who were up in the big show years ago. Some only got a peep under the big league tent and did not stick a season, while others filled their little space in the big league box score from three to five years. Only the stars are able to stick in the big show much longer.

A player of the Roy Hartzell type, who plays ten years in the fast set, is the big exception. Roy never reached stardom; he always was just a plodder. He never hit 300, but when he did hit his singles were timely. He was a fair infielder, and at times rose to the sensational in the outfield. He came into the American League with the Browns in 1904 and has remained in it ever since. Roy always gave his best, which is one of the reasons he still is in the league. This is Hartzell's eleventh year in the American League, and 1916 is only the second time in his major league career that he has been with a first division club, the Browns of 1908 finishing fourth.

Yet we single Hartzell out not because of what he did but because there are so few, so woefully few, like him. Let us go back just ten years ago and see how many regular players, who manned the big leagues in 1906 still are holding down real big league jobs, and doing good.

Famous Veterans of the Diamond Whose Work Sparkles Despite the Flight of Time



COBB, DETROIT AMER.

PLANK, ST. LOUIS AMER.

WAGNER, PITTSBURGH NAT.

COOMBS, BKLYN NAT.

EVERS, BOSTON NAT.

Since then, Sherry until recently was hitting just a little over 200. It seems Stallings pulled quite a bone when he gave up George Whitted for Magee in the winter following the 1914 world's series, the series which made the Braves world's champions.

Frank Schulte is another player who still is capable of showing some of the stuff which made him famous ten years ago, when, like Evers, he started to blossom out into stardom on Chance's Cubs. Frank had been going back for several years, but under Tinker is again displaying some of his old skill with the bat. Schulte came into the National League in 1904 and has put in his entire big league career with the Cubs.

Our list of regulars still in good standing closes with Terry Turner, the famous old infielder of the Cleveland, who was playing a star game on Fohl's team before being injured. Ten years ago old Cotton Top was regarded about the nearest shortstopper in the American League. One of Terry's weak points has been his brittleness, and throughout his career he has been bungled up very easily. For a while Terry was used as infield substitute, but wherever they used him he always played a fine fielding game and always was a dangerous man at bat. Turner entered the American League in 1904.

Veteran Pitchers.

Going over to pitchers who were doing regular duty in 1906, there are a few of the stars left. Matty, the three former Athletics, Plank, Bender and Coombs, Red Ames and Reulbach. Matty can hardly be called a regular now. He only pitches when in the humor. Ten years ago Matty had a poor season—that is, for him. That perhaps was due to a little reaction after his wonderful success in the 1905 world's series, and some critics then predicted that Matty was starting to go back. Matty came to the Giants in 1900.

Of the pitchers mentioned, the 41-year-old Plank is about the only one who is taking his regular turn in the box, week in and week out, and since the sun has boiled out the old dietysburg soup bone Plank has been pitching like a three-year-old. In his last time out he blanked the Senators with Johnson pitching.

Bender, after a rather sorry season in the Feds last year, has been pitching now and then for Moran's Phillies. He is getting about an even break. He recently showed the Giants some of his old time cunning, holding them to seven hits and one earned run. Bender joined the Athletics in 1903.

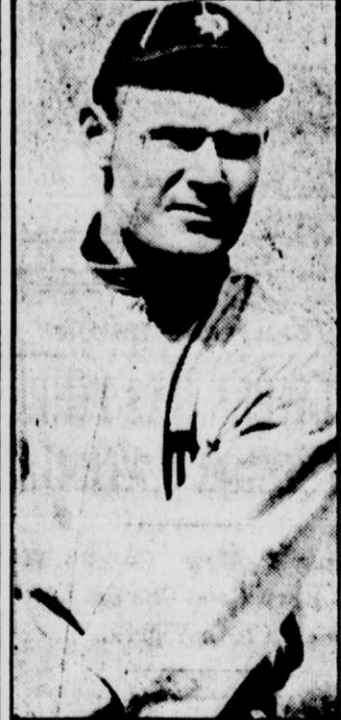
Coombs Reported in 1906.

Just about this time ten years ago Jack Coombs pitched his first big league game for the Athletics. He reported to Mack after the college season was over in 1906, and in his big league debut he shut out Washington, 3 to 0. Red Ames, who came to the Giants in 1903, seemed to be all in last year. It then looked as though his shift from the Reds to the Cards was just the step prior to being shifted off the big league map, but Leon has been doing well for Huggins's crowd this season. Reulbach, who became a Cub in 1905 and now is with the Braves, is pitching pretty good ball for Stallings, though the Big Chief has been using him only lately.

In addition to the players mentioned there are other famous old boys still hanging their hats in the big leagues. Though no longer classed as regulars. The leading one in this class is old Nap Lajoie, who ten years ago was managing Cleveland and until the last fortnight



LAJOIE, PHILA AMER.



CRAWFORD, DETROIT AMERICAN

MATHEWSON, N.Y. NATIONAL

has been playing second base regularly on the Athletics, the team he cast his lot with after he jumped the Philly Nationals in 1901. Lately Mack has been experimenting with colleagues at second, keeping Larry in reserve. He is the real set of the big leagues. Larry joined the old Philadelphia Nationals in 1896, a year before Wagner went to Louisville.

Wahoo Sam Another Vet.

Another old favorite who was recently retired from regular duty but who still packs quite a punch is old Sam Crawford, recently relegated to utility and pinch hit duty. Sam started his big league career with the Cincinnati Reds in 1900. Charley Doan, being carried by the Giants as third catcher, has been in the National League since 1902. Ten years ago he was one of the best catchers in the game.

There is only one other catcher who was in the big leagues a decade ago who is now also pattering out after eleven years of faithful service. The man is George Gibson of the Pirates. He joined the Buccaneers in 1905 and started to do the regular catching just ten years ago, in 1906. This year George has been catching little, Art Wilson, the former

Giants doing most of the Pittsburgh backstopping.

Mike Mowrey, third baseman of the Brooklyn, is another one eligible to be mentioned in the ten year discussion. Ten years ago, in 1906, Mowrey was an infield utility man with the Reds. After one year as a regular he put in two more years as a utility man before he was sworn into regular service.

IRONSIDES VS. GRAYS.

Newark Champions Will Play L. I. City Team To-day.

Two old time rivals, the Ironsides, champions of Newark, and the Bugon Grays, who stand without a peer in the semi-pro field of Long Island City, will cross bats this afternoon at Deacon Field, opposite the Hunter's Point station of the Steinway tube. These teams engaged in two thrilling contests early this season and broke even.

In the deciding game on Sunday Manager Klutt of the Grays will have several star pitchers and catchers to select his battery from. All contenders using on the firing line are Max Hoelker or Anker, who had a trial with the Athletics early this season behind the bat he will work Jimmy Woods. Kurfuss and Hughes or Haas will be the battery for the Ironsides. A preliminary game will start at 1:30.

OLYMPIC FIELD CONTESTS.

Highbridge Nine and Fire Laddies to Meet Lincoln Giants.

The Lincoln Giants will be seen in action this afternoon against the Highbridge nine and the New York Fire Department team at Olympic Field, 136th street and Fifth avenue. The colored ball towers, who as a rule had easy victories in white semi-pro teams, are likely to meet with surprise when they tackle the fire laddies and Highbridge nine, as both have shown quite some capability in their games to date.

In the first game the Highbridge boys will have their star hurler, Wernecke, on the firing line. Wernecke gained fame early this season by fanning seventeen of the Lincoln Stars. "Cyndine Joe" Williams will oppose Wernecke. The second tilt will bring together Lynch, former New England League pitcher, and "Gannon Ball" Redding.

REASON FOR DISMISSAL.

One of the causes for Charles Wagner's dismissal as manager of Hartford was that he let Waite Hoyt, the schoolboy pitcher secured from the New York Giants, go without a trial. Hoyt worked in only two innings and Wagner concluded he wouldn't do.

LEE FOHL PROVES MANAGERIAL FIND

Remarkable Spurt of Cleveland Club Won Recognition for Indians' Pilot.

GIANTS' WORK REVIEWED

No manager has held a more conspicuous place in the public limelight this season than Lee Fohl, the pilot of the Cleveland Indians. By his clever handling of the Forest City tribe this season Fohl has proved to be the managerial find of the decade.

Cleveland's remarkable spurt this year was enough to win Fohl recognition, but he really did not begin to display his managerial genius until the past month. Despite every obstacle, with a pitching staff of kids shot to pieces, Fohl has rallied his team after every retreat and continues to stick in the thick of the fight.

Fohl was a baseball nobody a year ago as far as the big league fan was concerned. There was no trumpeting of horns and columns of press despatches when Fohl took the oath as Cleveland manager a year ago. There were no pictures sent all over the country showing Lee with pen in hand signing his contract, as was the case when the great Frank Chance signed a three year contract to manage the Yankees at \$20,000 a year.

A "Temporary Manager."

When the Joe Birmingham revolution, which was smoldering in Cleveland throughout the 1914 season, came to a head about a year ago Joe's ousting and his threat to sue Charley Somers were the big features of the Cleveland story. The last paragraph of the story from the sixth city contained the brief statement: "For the present Lee Fohl, who has been acting as coach for young pitchers, will act as temporary manager."

When Cleveland came to the Polo Grounds about a year ago a heavy catcher was warning up a new Indian pitcher. Not recognizing either, Shortstop asked the catcher, "Who's that warming up, Jack?" "Jack" looked at us curiously, as though he didn't know whether to be insulted or amused, and then mentioned the name of the pitcher. "Jack" I afterward found out to be Lee Fohl.

Fohl is an accidental manager if there ever was one, and that makes his present showing all the more meritorious. If not sensational. Though it repeatedly has been printed that Fohl never was in the big league before landing with Cleveland that isn't so. During the American League's raid on the National, Fohl played brief engagements with the Pirates in 1902 and the Reds in 1903, but he never caught enough in big time to get warm.

Piloted in the Minors.

After that he spent about ten years in the middle West as catcher and later as manager, putting in a lot of time with the Three I League. In 1914 Somers engaged him to manage his Waterbury club of the then Eastern Association, and the league went on the rocks during the following winter.

As Fohl had been a faithful servant and had developed Guy Morton and Outfielder Elmer Smith in Waterbury, Somers brought Fohl to Cleveland to help around, and as minor league jobs were very scarce about that time Lee accepted with thanks.

When Birmingham was let out by Somers the Cleveland club was in a sorry state, both artistically and financially. The team was so bad it didn't make much difference who managed it and the Somers treasury was so depleted that no manager with a reputation could be hired. So the portfolio was turned over to the minor league coach, Fohl. Lee was only temporary manager at the start, but he has his job riveted down now with several dozen steel bolts.

The moral of the story is: "Don't look with scorn on a manager simply because he didn't win his shoulder straps in the big leagues."

Barren Days for McGraw.

John McGraw, New York's famous Little Napoleon, has made many famous records on the Polo Grounds since the late

Andy Freedman brought him to Gotham in July, 1902, but of the fourteen campaigns which Jawn Joseph has started on the Harlem green there are none which approach the 1916 brush in barren results.

There were times when the Giants had their difficulty in winning on the road, particularly in Chicago and St. Louis, but this latest wrinkle about being unable to win on the Polo Grounds is something entirely new. Yet with the season practically half over the Giants have won only seven games before a friendly audience. Twenty-three games have been lost by McGraw's team on the Polo Grounds this season.

The Giants have won two games from the Phillies at home and one each from Brooklyn, Boston, St. Louis, Chicago and Cincinnati. Brooklyn and Boston have both won six games in Harlem, Philadelphia five, Chicago three, Cincinnati two and Pittsburgh one. The Giants have won only one series at home, or perhaps we should say a fraction of a series, as they won the only game of the St. Louis series played.

Only once this year has the club won two games in a row on its home ground. They beat St. Louis on June 15 and a flood kept them idle until June 20 when they won the first game of a series from Boston.

The following figures show how the Giants have fared in the various series of their 1916 warfare on the Polo Grounds:

	W.	L.	Per Cent.
Philadelphia	1	3	.250
Brooklyn	1	3	.250
Boston	1	3	.250
Cincinnati	2	2	.500
Pittsburgh	0	1	.000
Chicago	3	2	.600
St. Louis	0	1	.000
Boston	2	3	.400
Philadelphia	2	3	.400
Brooklyn	0	3	.000
Total	7	23	

CONTROVERSY OVER 'BIRTH OF BASEBALL'

But Late A. G. Spalding Said It Was Born at Cooperstown.

The recent celebration at Cooperstown, N. Y., as the scene of the "birth of baseball" has again reopened the controversy regarding just when and where baseball was first played as an organized sport, with rules and fixed places for the different members of the teams when in the field. Some close students of the early history of the game still express doubt regarding the statement that either nine or eleven players first took the field at Cooperstown.

While some uncertainty may exist as to whether such a lineup was actually used in the early play at Cooperstown, there appears to be little doubt that a Cooperstown man, evolved the idea of placing the players in practically the positions they occupy in the game today. Credit is given to Abner Doubleday, by no less an authority than the late Albert G. Spalding, who wrote in his report upon the subject:

"In the days when Abner Doubleday attended school at Cooperstown (1839), it was a common thing for two dozen or more schoolboys to join in a game of ball. Doubtless, as in my later experiences, collisions between the players in attempting to catch the batted ball were frequent, and injury due to this cause, or to the practice of putting out the runner by hitting him with the ball, often occurred.

"I can well understand how the orderly mind of the embryo West Pointer would devise a scheme for limiting the contestants on each side and allotting them to field positions, each with a certain amount of territory, also substituting the existing method of putting out the base runner for the old one of 'plugging him with the ball.'

"True, it appears from the statement that Doubleday provided for eleven men on a side instead of nine, stationing the two extra men between first and second and third bases, but this is a minor detail, and indeed I have played, and doubtless other old players have, repeatedly with eleven on a side, placed almost identically in the manner indicated by Doubleday's diagram, although it is true that we so played after the number on each side had been fixed at nine, simply to admit to the game an additional number of those who wished to take part in it."

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Will Be Bigger and Better Than Ever